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REMARKS

Claim Amendments

The claims have been amended to improve their form. In particular:

Claims 12 to 16 have been amended to correct their dependency.

The introductory language of the dependent claims has been amended to replace "A" with "The" in accordance with standard practice.

The introductory language of dependent claims 8, 9, 15 and 16 has been amended to conform to the independent claims from which they depend.

Various terms have been amended to provide antecedent basis therefor.

New claims 19 to 23 have been added to present article claims that seek to encompass the subject matter of cancelled method claims 10, 17 and 18.

These amendments were made simply to improve the form of the claims. Clearly no amendments were made in view of prior art.

Election of Invention

Applicant notes the Examiner's requirement to elect one invention from the following: group I, including claims 1 to 9 and 11 to 16, and group II, including claims 10, 17 and 18.

Applicant therefore elects without traverse group I of the claims.

The foregoing election is made without prejudice to filing a divisional application at a later date directed to the subject matter of any non-elected claims, if desired.

Election of Species

Applicant notes the Examiner's further requirement to elect a single species from Figures 2, 4 and 5. Although no claim is generic to all of the identified species,

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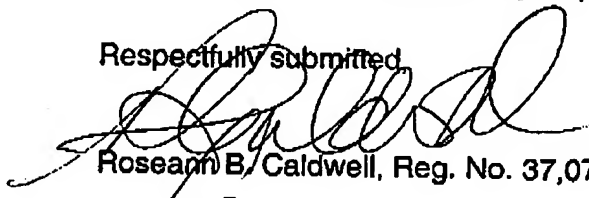
Applicants note that claims 1 to 3 are generic to both the species of Figures 2 and 4. Thus, the following election is made so that the claims can be restricted to the one elected species only if claims 1 and 3 are held to be non allowable.

With respect to the election, applicant elects without traverse the species of Figure 4. Applicant submits that claims 4 to 18 are readable on this elected species.

The foregoing election is made without prejudice to adding additional claims to a species generic to any of the above-noted claims which are held allowable, and to filing a divisional application at a later date directed to the subject matter of any non-elected claims, if necessary.

Favorable consideration of the amended application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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